



Hello Friends:

On Tuesday, the Governor unveiled his \$125 billion budget proposal for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. From what I have seen of the Governor's budget proposal thus far, I am pleased to see that it provides:

- \$6 million more to better equip the Department of Justice in fighting methamphetamine production - California's number one drug problem and a lingering issue in the Central Valley.
- \$35 million to the Department of Water Resources to implement a Central Valley Flood management plan.
- \$34.2 million (increase) to promote and maximize children enrollment into Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families Program. This is especially important in the Valley where approximately 6% of children under the age of four are uninsured.

Though some of the items included in the Governor's budget are positives for the Central Valley, I do have some concerns. Despite the fact that state revenues are at record highs, the Governor's Budget proposal denies our seniors and low-income citizens with the federal cost-of-living increase that they need and deserve. This along with the fact that the proposal calls for \$6 billion more to be spent than it takes in are issues that need to be addressed before a final budget is passed.

I can assure you that I will be working with the Governor to ensure that the needs of the Central Valley are represented in the final budget.

OPERATION VALENTINE'S FOR VETERANS

Finally, like I promised you, more details on our **Veterans Bus Ride**. For those of you unable to take part in the last years Veterans Bus Ride, mark your calendars because we are taking another trip on **Friday, February 10th**. This trip will be different from last years in that we will be delivering **Valentine cards** made by local school children to **Veterans** residing at the **Fresno VA Hospital**. The bus trip will begin at my **Bakersfield district office** and make stops in **Hanford** and **Lemoore**. Exact times are still being set. As soon as they are final, i'll be sure to let you know.

For more information and to RSVP, please call my Hanford District Office at (559)585-7170. Space is limited and participants will be accommodated on a first come, first serve basis.

CAL GRANTS AND FAFSA WORKSHOPS

As many of you might know paying for college can be difficult, but California has always been a leader in providing eligible students with an affordable college education. Cal Grants, a need-based financial aid program, has been a big part of making college affordable for many Californian families. Qualified students can get up to \$8,322 a year to attend almost any college in California – awards vary depending on need, grades and the college you attend.

This year I will be hosting four **Cal Grant and FAFSA Workshops** throughout my district to give high school seniors, community college transfer students (under 24 years of age), and GED holders (within one year of completion) an opportunity to learn about and apply for **Cal Grants** and other types of financial assistance programs. It's important to note that in order to be considered for many of these programs you must submit a **Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** application to the **U.S. Department of Education** before **March 2nd**.

The first of the four workshops will occur on **Saturday, January 28th** in **Kingsburg**. Below you will find a list of dates and locations of other Cal Grant Workshops I will be hosting throughout the district. If you are unable to make any of these, I encourage you to visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for information on filling out a FAFSA form and www.csac.ca.gov for information on CAL Grants.

Kingsburg
Saturday, January 28th
10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Kingsburg High School (New Gymnasium)
1900 18th Ave.

McFarland
Sunday, February 19th
Noon to 2:00 p.m.
McFarland High School Cafeteria
601 Second St.

Arvin
Sunday, February 26th
Noon to 2:00 p.m.
Arvin High School Cafeteria
900 Varsity Road

Hanford
TBD

If you are planning to attend any of these workshops please be sure to bring the documents listed below. They will be needed to properly fill out your financial aid forms.

- Federal income tax returns from 2004 or 2003
- Your W-2 forms or pay-check stubs
- Bank statements
- Your Social Security Card or number
- Your parents' W-2 forms
- Your parents' Social Security Card or numbers

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING SCHOLARSHIP "SAVE THE DATE"

The Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship is available to students who are enrolled or accepted in an associate degree nursing program. Students may receive up to 8,000 to pay for tuition, required fees, books, supplies, and educational equipment costs.

For more information on applying for the Fall 2006/Spring 2007 scholarship call the Health Professionals Education Foundation at 1-800-773-1669 or visit www.healthprofessions.ca.gov. The application deadline for the fall 2006/spring 2007 school year scholarship is **March 24th**.

MEETING REQUESTS

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my Executive Secretary Ellen Manolis at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov.

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for internships in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley. Applications can be found by going to:
<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Matt Rogers** at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Manuel Barrera** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov.

For Sacramento office internships contact **Michael Tamariz** at **(916) 319-2030** or by e-mail at Michael.Tamariz@asm.ca.gov.

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